

does it make sense for the agency responsible for everything outside to be called the Department of the Interior. I would add that only in Washington is it good news when the government spends \$1 million on nothing.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, sequestration—we must repeal the sequester now.

Americans have lived under these budget cuts for over 2 months, and one thing is clear: sequestration is hurting Americans; it is hurting constituents in your district and in mine, damaging the American economy and killing American jobs. We must totally repeal sequestration now. Democrats are prepared to vote for full repeal.

Madam Speaker, a piecemeal approach to reversing these cuts is simply the wrong way forward. We should not be in the business of picking winners and losers when it comes to restoring funding, like when we reversed the cuts to TSA because the delays created made front-page news. Our actions should not be driven by who makes the most noise, but rather what is best for the country and the American people.

Lifesaving medical research funded by NIH has taken a \$1.6 billion hit. Are we to think that research for cures to cancer, HIV/AIDS, and diabetes are less important than how quickly we move through airport lines?

Madam Speaker, we need to send a clear message to the American people that we will not stand for arbitrary cuts. We must fully repeal sequestration now.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1406, the piece of legislation that we will be debating today, the Working Families Flexibility Act of 2013. I am proud of the work that my friend Congresswoman MARTHA ROBY has done on this important bill. This legislation makes life easier for American families by giving them an additional tool to balance the demands of their family and workplace life.

As the father of boys, I know it takes a lot of time to help not only raise them, but to prepare them for their future. But I also had a job in the private sector; and I know that there are times when people in the private sector need the flexibility to do like I did, to take their boys to a Boy Scout campout or a wrestling tournament.

Currently, public sector workers have the flexibility to convert their overtime into comp time off. Labor unions include similar provisions in

collective bargaining agreements with their employees. America's private sector workers deserve the same option that union workers have.

I look forward to supporting this legislation on the floor and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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ARBITRATION FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I introduce H.R. 1844, the Arbitration Fairness Act. Forced arbitration agreements stack the deck against working people and have been of concern to me ever since I've come to Congress. These agreements are pervasive and they adversely affect countless Americans every year.

Too many Americans are forced to give up their rights to have a trial by jury when it comes to these consumer agreements that they sign with these megabusineses. My bill would remedy this by prohibiting any predispute agreement that requires arbitration for claims involving employees, consumers, civil rights, and antitrust.

We must protect our constitutional right to a fair trial by a jury of one's peers. I will continue to champion this bill until it is signed into law, and I urge my colleagues to support the Arbitration Fairness Act.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, as we approach the summer months, we get closer to the dreaded date of 2014 when ObamaCare is launched. We still face major uncertainty to how this massive takeover of health care is actually going to work. In fact, the administration is not even certain of that.

Families and small businesses in my district have great concern over what's going to happen. In fact, when I talk to small business owners, many of them say they're going to have to stop providing health care and put these folks into these exchanges because they need the money to stay competitive. It's going to be something that they can find savings; and, again, in these uncertain times, they're not sure exactly what they're going to do.

When you look at what the President said that "if you like your health care, you can keep your health care," well, in fact, in my district, there's going to be 44,000 seniors that are going to lose Medicare Advantage because of ObamaCare.

Taxes will go up. Taxes will go up on businesses and families. Individuals are already seeing their premiums increased.

And the President has done nothing to provide certainty, as I said. The ad-

ministration isn't even sure how this is going to play out. And I believe, ladies and gentlemen, that this is going to end up in a train wreck. This is going to end up in something that is going to hurt the economy and hurt health care.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN FURLONGHS

(Mr. MAFFEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, last weekend, I had the honor to visit the men and women of the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, New York.

The 174th is tasked with training airmen and supporting missions around the globe, including supporting combat missions in Afghanistan. It also supports homeland defense and aids during domestic emergencies, such as Hurricane Sandy. It does this 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I was thoroughly impressed with the professionalism of Colonel Greg Semmel and the officers and airmen under his command. But I also saw firsthand how sequestration is affecting our military and its ability to execute its mission, a mission that the Congress of the United States authorized.

Approximately 280 that work for the 174th are subject to furlough, forcing the unit to operate missions in a theater of war short-handed. Many of these men and women are in the National Guard and work full time in uniform. They are members of our Armed Forces on military missions and yet subject to sequestration.

This Congress should be ashamed that soldiers are sequestered in a time of war. I urge this body to find a way to prevent these furloughs so that the 174th and the rest of our military can complete the mission and protect our national security. We cannot wait another week. We must do it this week. We must give our soldiers and sailors and airmen the support that they need.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been more than 20 weeks since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook school; yet Congress has still been unable to pass a comprehensive legislative piece to curb gun violence in this country. While an overwhelming majority of Americans support expanding background checks, Senate Republicans last month blocked an important measure that would have expanded background checks to many types of private firearm sales.

I came here from the mental health field. Every day that the Republicans in Congress choose to block critical measures to reduce gun violence, we will prevent having a safe community,